

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 210950

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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UNCLAS STATE 210950

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PAGE 02 STATE 210950

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 25, 1973 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SPEAKING IN NYC, COORDINATOR OF NATL. LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF MIA, JUST RETURNED FROM TRIP TO LAOS WITH GROUP OF MIA KIN, SAYS PL SEEMED MORE SYMPATHETIC THAN DOS TO PLIGHT OF MIAS. CHARGES THAT ADMINISTRATION ACTS AS IF IT "WANTS TO FORGET OUR MEN MISSING IN ACTION." ADDS THAT PL SPOKESMAN TOLD HER THAT LIST OF US DEAD AND CAPTURED WILL BE RELEASED AS SOON AS COALITION GOVT. FORMED (NYDN).

2. TEN SOVIET DIPLOMATS AND FAMILIES DEPART PP FOR SINGAPORE, LEAVING BEHIND ONLY 3 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS. VIRTUAL CLOSURE OF EMBASSY POSSIBLY LINKED TO RECENT UNGA DECISION TO DEBATE CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION QUESTION. GKR OFFICIALS SAY THERE HAS BEEN NO FORMAL BREAK IN RELATIONS (REUTER).

3. GKR PARLIAMENT PASSES RESOLUTION ASKING UN TO CEASE INTERFERING IN KHMER INTERNAL AFFAIRS. RESOLUTION IN PART SAYS "NEITHER THE UN NOR ANY THIRD PARTY

CAN IMPOSE A POLITICAL CHOICE ON THE KHMER PEOPLE" (UPI, NYDN; WP).

4. BINDER (NYT) FROM WASHINGTON SAYS US INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS REPORT NVN BUILDUP HAS ADDED 70,000 MEN, 400 TANKS AND 200 ARTILLERY PIECES TO THE 200,000 NVA SOLDIERS AND 70-80,000 VC ESTIMATED IN SVN AS OF JAN. 28. ADDITIONALLY, 15 AA REGTS. MOVED TO SVN, 12 AIRFIELDS REBUILT IN VC AREAS, AND ALL-WEATHER ROAD SOUTH OF TAY NINH PROVINCE. COMMUNISTS NOW HAVE GREATEST ATTACK POTENTIAL SINCE '72 OFFENSIVE. GVN HAS 375,000 REGULAR TROOPS WITH SAME WEAPONS LEVEL AS OF TIME OF C-F, SINCE ONLY REPLACEMENTS SHIPPED IN. ADMIN REPORTEDLY CONCERNED BY RED BUILDUP SINCE REPRESENTS VIOLATION OF CF AND HAS POTENTIAL UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 210950

FOR RENEWED OUTBREAK OF HEAVY FIGHTING. SOME US OFFICIALS INTERPRET NVN AIM AS ONLY TO PROTECT VC ENCLAVES IN SVN TO USE AS BASE FOR POLITICAL STRUGGLE; OTHERS ARGUE THAT NVN PREPARING FOR MAJOR MILITARY ACTIONS, PERHAPS IN DRY SEASON. EITHER COURSE OF ACTION POSSIBLE SINCE NVN POLICY IS BECOMING INCREASING POLARIZED BETWEEN LE DUAN WHO WANTS CONTINUED MILITARY STRUGGLE IN SVN, AND TRUONG CHINH, WHO GIVES PRIORITY TO REBUILDING NVN. OUTSIDE FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE NVN POLICY BELIEVED TO BE GROWING STRENGTH OF ARVN, MAKING EARLY OFFENSIVE MORE DESIRABLE, AND POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED US AIR SUPPORT, INCLUDING BOMBING OF NVN, IF MAJOR FIGHTING ERUPTS.

5. PHAM VAN DONG IN PRAGUE PRAISES '68 SOVIET INVASION, ENDORSING OFFICIAL CZECH VIEW THAT ACTION PREVENTED RIGHT-WING COUP SUCH AS RECENTLY TOOK PLACE IN CHILE. HE THUS BREAKS WITH CHINA ON ISSUE, SINCE PRC LEADERS CONDEMNED INVASION AS TRAMPLING ON RIGHTS OF SMALLER COUNTRIES (CSM).

6. NOBEL COMMITTEE AWAITS OFFICIAL WORD FROM HANOI ON THO'S REJECTION OF PEACE PRIZE BEFORE DECIDING ON COURSE OF ACTION OR COMMENTING. NVN NEWS AGENCY HAS RELEASED TEXT, BUT LETTER NOT YET RECEIVED (WP). GVN SPOKESMAN WARNS THAT REJECTION INDICATES HANOI PREPARING NEW OFFENSIVE, SINCE ACCEPTANCE WOULD HAVE BOUND NVN TO RESPECT PARIS AGREEMENT (NYT).

7. FIRST IRANIAN ICCS CONTINGENT OF 60 ARRIVES AT SAIGON. IN PARIS, GVN AND PRG CONFIRM THAT THEY WILL RESUME POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TALKS ON OCT. 25

8. ARVN SPOKESMAN REPORTS C-F VIOLATION EXCEEDED 100 FOR EACH OF PAST 3 DAYS. MOST OF TODAY'S WERE SHELLINGS IN DELTA AND ON CENTRAL COAST. GVN OFFICIALS SAY MASSIVE NVN TANK, ARTILLERY AND INFANTRY ASSAULT HAS HIT ARVN COLUMN TRYING TO RECAPTURE LE MINH, KNOCKING OUT FULL BATTALION 12 MI. SOUTH OF PLEIKU CITY. NO OFFICIAL CASUALTY COUNT GIVEN (REUTER).
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 210950

9. WP REPORTS FROM TOKYO THAT JAPANESE BUSINESS INTERESTS HAVE BEGUN NEGOTIATIONS TO BUILD 300-ROOM, 20 MILLION DOLLAR HOTEL IN HANOI. BUSINESS SOURCES SAY HOTEL PROPOSED BY NVN AUTHORITIES AS PROJECT FOR JAPAN'S ASSISTANCE TO REBUILD NVN. NEW HOTEL WILL ALSO HOUSE JAPANESE EMBASSY. COMPLETION PLANNED BY JUNE '75. LACK OF ACCOMMODATION HAS LIMITED HANOI'S ABILITY TO INVITE BUSINESSMEN AND OTHER VISITORS.

THAILAND

10. EA DEPUTY ASST. SEC. STEARNS TELLS CONGRESS NO NEED FOR BASIC CHANGE IN US POLICY TOWARD THAILAND, NO REASON TO BELIEVE US INTERESTS IN THAILAND WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THAI SHIFT TO CIVILIAN RULE (REUTER, NYT).

11. SANYA PRESENTS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 14-POINT STATEMENT GIVING BROAD OUTLINES OF NEW REGIME'S INTERNAL AND FOREIGN POLICIES. STATEMENT SAYS GOVT. WILL MAINTAIN FREEDOM, SOVEREIGNTY AND NATION'S INTERESTS, AND COOPERATE WITH UN IN SUPPORTING PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE. RTG WILL MAINTAIN COMMITMENTS WITH FOREIGN

COUNTRIES, WILL BE FRIENDLY WITH COUNTRIES SHOWING FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS THAILAND REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGIES, AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ASEAN TO CREATE PEACE, SECURITY AND PROGRESS FOR PEOPLES OF REGION (REUTER).

12. SANYA APPOINTS 18-MAN COMMITTEE TO DRAFT NEW CONSTITUTION EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED WITHIN 6 MONTHS (AP NYT; WP). DAWEE TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY THAT THERE WILL BE NO SPEEDUP IN WITHDRAWAL OF US AIRCRAFT BASED IN THAILAND. SAID US TROOP WITHDRAWALS WILL CONTINUE, BUT THEY WILL GO ONLY WHEN "NEED OF OPERATIONS BY US TROOPS IN THAILAND IS OVER" (AP, NYT; NYDN, WP).

CHINA
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 210950

13. JOINT SINO-US ANNOUNCEMENT SAYS SECRETARY'S CHINA VISIT HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR NOV. 10-13. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN MCCLOSKEY ADDS THAT HE MAY STOP OFF IN TOKYO EN ROUTE TO PEKING, BUT WHILE JAPANESE INVITATION WAS RENEWED AND ACCEPTED, NO SPECIFIC DATE SET YET (UPI, CHITRIB; CSM).

14. NCNA ACCUSES US AND SOVIET OF "NAKEDLY PURSUING BIG POWER POLITICS" IN MIDEAST "AND IMPOSING A NEW 'NO WAR, NO PEACE' SITUATION ON THE PEOPLE OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES" (AP SUN, CHITRIB; WP; CSM; NYT). NYDN'S CASTRO, IN HK, SUGGESTS THAT IN CRITICIZING MIDEAST CEASE-FIRE RESOLUTION, CHINESE "EITHER WERE APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF ISRAEL'S MOUNTING SUPERIORITY ON THE BATTLEFIELD, AS REPORTED BY THE WORLD PRESS, OR DID NOT BELIEVE IT." NYT DISPATCH NOTES TASS COMMENTARY CHARGE THAT BY NOT SUPPORTING SOVIET-US RESOLUTION FOR MIDEAST CEASE-FIRE, PRC SHOWS SHE IS "NOT INTERESTED" IN SETTLING CONFLICT. TASS RAPS CHOU'S "PROVOCATIVE" CABLE TO ARAB LEADERS THAT CLAIMED "ISRAELI AGGRESSION" WAS CAUSED BY US AND SOVIET.

15. RCA RECORDS "YELLOW RIVER CONCERTO"; EXPECTS IT WILL BE HIT EVEN IF IT "MAY BE ALL SCHMALTZ TO THE CRITICS" (WSJ). AFP REPORTS THAT CHINA'S MOST RECENT "MODERN REVOLUTIONARY OPERA" OPENED LAST MONTH IN PEKING AND IS BEING GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY. WORK HAS 2 MORALS -- THAT COMMUNIST PARTY SHOULD CONTROL PLA AND THAT CONSTANT VIGILANCE IS NECESSARY TO UNMASK TRAITORS, WHO MAY BE VERY HIGH-PLACED (PHINQ).

16. WP'S ALAN KRIEGSMAN REPORTS SHOWING TONIGHT OF AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE'S "CHANGING IMAGES OF CHINA" IN TWO INSTALLMENTS; FIRST BEGINNING 6:30

P.M.; SECOND, AT 9:00 P.M., COVERING DOCUMENTARIES

PRODUCED IN 1937, 1944 AND 1955.

JAPAN

17. TANAKA TOLD JSDF SENIOR OFFICIALS WEDNESDAY THAT GOJ PLANS GOING AHEAD WITH JSDF EXPANSION PLANS, DESPITE COURT RULING THAT FORCE IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL. UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 210950

PM DECLARED IT "INDISPENSABLE TO MAINTAIN" MST AND "MINIMUM FORCE NECESSARY FOR SELFDEFENSE" (AP, NYDN).

18. "TOKYO ROUND" OPENED IN GENEVA WEDNESDAY. NEW TRADE LIBERALIZATION TALKS BEING HELD WITHIN FRAMEWORK

OF GATT, TO WHICH PRC AND SOVIET DO NOT BELONG. ALTHOUGH NEGOTIATIONS WERE CALLED "NIXON ROUND" DURING PLANNING STAGE, US OFFICIALS DISCLOSED WEDNESDAY THEY HAVE ORDERS NOW TO CALL IT TOKYO ROUND. NAME STEMS FROM SEPT. 12-14 TOKYO MEETING OF TRADE MINISTERS THAT GAVE GO-AHEAD FOR NEGOTIATIONS (UPI PHINQ, JOC).

19. JOC TOKYO DISPATCH SAYS SHARP US-JAPAN DISAGREEMENT ABOUT BASIS FOR INTERNATIONAL SHARING OF OIL SUPPLIES IS LIKELY TO EMERGE AT FRIDAY MEETING OF OECD OIL COMMITTEE IN PARIS. JAPANESE EXPECTED TO ARGUE THAT ANY INTERNATIONALLY AGREED RATIONING SYSTEM SHOULD BE BASED ON CONSUMPTION LEVELS OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES WITH EACH ACCEPTING CUT IN OIL DELIVERIES PROPORTIONATE TO ITS OVERALL REQUIREMENTS. US ADVOCATES RATIONING SYSTEM BASED ON IMPORTS ALONE, WHICH WOULD WEIGH EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVILY ON JAPAN, WORLD'S LARGEST OIL IMPORTER IN RELATION TO OVERALL LEVEL OF CONSUMPTION.

20. ACCORDING TO NIHON KEIZAI, TANAKA HAS PROPOSED THAT US, BRITAIN, FRANCE AND JAPAN COOPERATE WITH CHINA IN DEVELOPING UNDERSEA OIL DEPOSITS IN CHINA SEA. PAPER CLAIMED JAPAN ALREADY HAS DISCUSSED IDEA WITH US OIL COMPANIES, FRENCH AND BRITISH, BUT PRC ATTITUDE STILL BIG UNKNOWN FACTOR (UPI, JOC). JAPANESE OIL REFINER SAYS EXXON HAS NOTIFIED JAPANESE REFINERIES THAT CRUDE OIL PRICES WILL BE RAISED BY 30 PERCENT BECAUSE OF ARAB PRODUCERS' DECISION TO RAISE PRICES. SHELL REPORTEDLY HAS ALSO NOTIFIED JAPANESE, WITH OTHER MAJOR OIL FIRMS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW SUIT SOON (WP, CSM).

21. IN INTERVIEW WITH FINANCIAL TIMES, PRESIDENT OF UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 210950

SUMITOMO CHEMICAL PREDICTS JAPANESE INDUSTRY LIKELY

TO FACE RAPID DECLINE IN ITS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS
BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC INFLATION, LABOR SHORTAGES AND
EXTREME SEVERITY OF POLLUTION CONTROLS. SAID SUMITOMO
PLANNING MAJOR PROJECTS IN SINGAPORE, INDONESIA
AND W. EUROPE WHOSE TOTAL VALUE COULD RUN INTO SEVERAL
HUNDRED MILLIONS (JOC).

22. COMMISSIONER OF GA. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.
SAYS TOYOBO WILL CONSTRUCT 15 MILLION TEXTILE DYEING,
FINISHING AND PRINTING PLANT AT AUGUSTA, GA. THIS
IS TENTH JAPANESE MANUFACTURING OR ASSEMBLY FACILITY
ANNOUNCED FOR STATE IN PAST YEAR (UPI, JOC).
BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL CORP., NY-BASED INTERNATIONAL

PUBLISHING AND RESEARCH FIRM, ESTABLISHES JOINT
VENTURE WITH TWO JAPANESE PUBLI

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SEOUL
SINGAPORE
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